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FROM: BONN

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 413, AUGUST 24, 2 PM

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By ep NARA, Date 3-1-90

SOVIET AMBASSADOR SMIRNOV DELIVERED FOREIGN OFFICE VAN  
SCHERFENBERG 13-PAGE LETTER FROM KHRUSHCHEV TO CHANCELLOR  
ADENAUER. FOREIGN OFFICE ASKED CHANCELLOR PERMISSION RELEASE  
TEXT LETTER AMERICAN EMBASSY BUT THUS FAR HAS NOT REPEAT NOT  
OBTAINED CHANCELLOR'S CONSENT. HOWEVER, FOREIGN OFFICE WILL  
ENDEAVOR OBTAIN APPROVAL BEFORE END OF DAY.

IN VIEW THESE CIRCUMSTANCES EMBASSY ONLY OBTAINED VERY GENERAL  
DESCRIPTION CONTENTS LETTER AND FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL WHO  
GAVE SUMMATION REQUESTED INFORMATION BE CLOSELY HELD AND SOURCE  
PROTECTED.

ACCORDING FOREIGN OFFICE, LETTER CONTAINS NO NEW PROPOSALS.  
PRINCIPAL SIGNIFICANT ASPECT IS THAT KHRUSHCHEV SPEAKS IN  
VERY CONCILIATORY TONES WITH CHANCELLOR JUSTIFYING SOVIET  
POSITIONS TAKEN AT GENEVA CONFERENCE, POINTING OUT DIFFICULTIES  
IN WAY EARLY REUNIFICATION AND SUGGESTING THAT DESPITE  
DIFFICULTY FINDING SOLUTIONS BASIC PROBLEMS IT ESSENTIAL FOR  
BOTH FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND SOVIET UNION ATTEMPT FIND FORMULA  
CO-EXIST PEACEFULLY. KHRUSHCHEV SAYS THIS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE  
PROVIDED ONLY FEDERAL REPUBLIC REFRAIN FROM SEEKING  
SHARPEN INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS.

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-2- 413, AUGUST 24, 2 PM FROM BONN

SOME REFERENCE MADE TO ATOMIC ARMING BUNDESWEHR (KHRUSHCHEV POINTED OUT SOME DIFFICULTIES GENEVA CONFERENCE RESULTED FROM THIS FACT. AND SOME CURSORY COMMENTS RE NATO, BUT ON WHOLE KHRUSHCHEV CAREFULLY REFRAINED FROM MAKING ANY THREATENING SOUNDS.

TWO SIGNIFICANT ITEMS SUBSTANCE ARE (1) REFERENCE IN LETTER FACT FEDERAL REPUBLIC "HAS NO RIGHT" BECOME INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS BERLIN QUESTION AND (2) ALLEGATION FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S INSISTANCE THAT FOUR POWERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOLUTION GERMAN QUESTION PATENTLY UNFAIR PROPOSAL SINCE THIS ASSURES SOVIET MINORITY ROLE IN FORUM (KHRUSHCHEV ASKED RHETORICALLY WHAT FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S ATTITUDE WOULD BE IF SOVIETS PROPOSED THAT THREE EASTERN BLOC NATIONS ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY QUESTION ALONG WITH ONE WESTERN NATION).

SMIRNOV ASSURED VAN SCHERPENBERG SOVIETS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT PUBLISH NOTE WITHOUT CHANCELLOR'S CONSENT. . IN PASSING, FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL OBSERVED THAT PUBLICATION NOTE THIS TIME WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS FOR CHANCELLOR PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF TONE NOT AND ALTERNATIVES OFFERED.

HOWEVER, REPLY IS NOW IN PREPARATION AND FOREIGN OFFICE BELIEVES CHANCELLOR WILL AGREE PUBLISH KHRUSHCHEV NOTE AS SOON AS HIS OWN REPLY READY.

FOREIGN OFFICE'S FIRST IMPRESSION IS THAT LETTER, IN VIEW TIMING AND SUBSTANCE, INTENDED HAVE "SOFTENING" EFFECT ON CHANCELLOR PRIOR HIS MEETING PRESIDENT EISENHOWER IN BONN.

BRUCE

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